

**INFORMATIONAL REPORT  
OF THE  
NORTHWEST INDIANA TRANSPORTATION  
STUDY COMMISSION**



**Indiana Legislative Services Agency  
200 W. Washington Street, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204**

**October, 2004**

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# **NORTHWEST INDIANA TRANSPORTATION STUDY COMMISSION**

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### **Staff**

Andrew Roesener  
Attorney for the Commission

James Sperlik  
Fiscal Analyst for the Commission

A copy of this report is available on the Internet. Reports, minutes, and notices are organized by committee. This report and other documents for this Committee can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.state.in.us/legislative/>.

## **I. STATUTORY DIRECTIVES**

The Indiana General Assembly enacted P.L. 31-2003 establishing the Northwest Indiana Transportation Study Commission (hereafter Commission) and directing the Commission to do the following:

- (1) Monitor the development of commuter transportation and rail service in the Lowell-Chicago and Valparaiso-Chicago corridors.
- (2) Study all aspects of regional mass transportation and road and highway needs in Lake County, Porter County, LaPorte County, St. Joseph County, and Elkhart County.
- (3) Study other topics as assigned by the Legislative Council.

The Legislative Council did not assign any topics to the Commission for the 2004 interim session.

## **II. INTRODUCTION AND REASONS FOR STUDY**

The Commission met one time during the 2004 interim session. The meeting was held on October 5, 2004 at the Lowell Public Library in Lowell, Indiana.

The Commission is submitting this brief summary for informational purposes, as it is not required to file a final report. Meeting minutes for the Commission can be accessed from the General Assembly homepage at <http://www.state.in.us/legislative/>.

## **III. SUMMARY OF WORK PROGRAM**

The following topics were addressed at the October 5, 2004 meeting of the Commission:

- (1) Representatives from the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) provided an overview of INDOT's efforts to procure abandoned railroad tracks. Representatives from INDOT and the Indiana High Speed Rail Association presented information on the development of high speed rail service in Indiana.
- (2) Brian Nichol (Commissioner, INDOT) addressed the status of several issues regarding the toll booth in Portage.
- (3) Representatives from INDOT summarized INDOT's long range plan for Indiana, including the status of: (A) preservation projects on roads and bridges; and (B) added capacity projects to address congestion and safety issues.
- (4) A representative from the Indiana Department of Revenue explained the process for issuing permits for trucks hauling oversized or overweight loads.
- (5) A representative of INDOT provided an overview of the regulation of small airports.